

Press Release

Call to End Oppression against Rohingya

The world most persecuted Rohingya, according to the UN, are now in the final stage of Genocide, argued by Genocide scholars. There is a popular belief among the international community and Rohingya that this decades-long genocidal oppression could be starting to end upon taking office by the new Myanmar civilian government led by Aung San Suu Kyi. Contrary to this belief, the government comes up with the new faces of oppression since it took office in April 1.

Recently, the multi-official involved government team started the legacy of the Thein Sein government forcing Rohingya in some of the cities in Rakhine state to hold "National Identification Card." The card is meant to identify the holder as illegal immigrants from Bangladesh, which is in contrast with historical documents and official records that say Rohingya have been one of the recognized ethnic minorities and citizens of Myanmar. Rohingya, especially Rohingya elders, are now facing intimidation and harassment due to their denial to self-identify as illegal immigrants. Some Rohingya elders are threatened by the authorities as, "we will charge you with the involvement with ISIS (terrorist group) if you deny accepting the Bangalization card or if you fail to convince the people to accept those cards."

In addition, Burmese delegate at UN Human Rights Council openly call not to use the self-identification term Rohingya. At the recent meeting with UN special Rapporteur on human rights, Aung San Suu Kyi told her not to use the term Rohingya. Further, since new government took the office, restrictions on religious practice has been continued; many Rohingya have been brutally killed either by authorities or Rakhine mobs; and some Rohingya are arbitrarily detained including one minor. Extortion of money from Rohingya takes new shape in Maungdaw. Police come with illegal drugs and put in the houses of Rohingya to extort money in hundred thousand. In short, there is no ending of oppression against Rohingya.

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The European Rohingya Council (ERC)

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We urge international community to speak out to end this genocidal oppression against Rohingya. We urge Rohingya activists, human rights activists and organizations and concerned individuals to be involved in the coming 24 hour twitter storm starting from 21:00 CEST (Central European Summer Time) 30th June, 2016 to create thousands of voices on the web with the hope that the world leader would take a concrete action to end oppression against Rohingya. Oppressed Rohingya highly appreciate your support. Every voice works and count!

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